

**Subject:** Re: [TzM CORE] Australian Magazine and TVP Hit Piece :(  
**From:** Kari <karin.e.mcgregor@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 8/12/2012 11:05 AM  
**To:** tzm-core-team@googlegroups.com

Brandy - thank you for your response and the time it took to consider and write. Thank you to everyone for putting your time and energy into this. I'd sincerely love to see us all put that time and energy back into the work we do for the Movement - not to detract from the importance some give this matter - but to just maintain perspective and focus on what's most important.

Regarding my response, it won't come from me personally but a collective response from the TzM Australia team, but from what is formulated so far, much of what you mention seems to be addressed - I don't want to put my valuable time into doubling-up our efforts. Our collective response to this matter will be available in the next couple of hours - we are trying to give our volunteers as much time and opportunity as possible to respond - being that the consequences concern the entire chapter by way of collective punishment - whilst having a proverbial gun pointed at our heads with a 24-hr warning.

I would love to see us all engage in the spirit of non-violent communication regarding our responses to one another's thoughts. This includes our assumptions about the intentions of others. If I am considered to have been culturally insensitive due to my explanation of Australian culture in relation to this Australian publication then this is a misinterpretation of my intentions - as all I wished to do was provide an explanation of just that. I don't think culture should be overlooked as something that allows a spark to be ignited in one part of the world whilst leaving others scratching their heads. As an example, our Aussie team find the American litigation culture absurd, and even more so the notion of TzM/TVP buying into it (don't shoot! I'm just the messenger here!).

On a side note, please don't accuse me of having some kind of misplaced "cultural pride". I'm not even Australian - I'm a migrant - I was offering my understanding of the culture of our readership on the good faith that others would take on board that no harm was meant, and none caused over the ocean. That is all.

Thank you, and I hope we can get back to discussing strategies for how to have a positive impact on the world around us for the sake of inter- and intra-generational equity.

Regards,

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**Kari McGregor**  
**Editor, *Spirit of the Times* magazine**  
[www.thespiritofcommunity.org](http://www.thespiritofcommunity.org)

On 8/12/2012 9:01 AM, Brandy wrote:

Sorry everyone, my phone stopped receiving emails for some reason and magically decided to send them all

just now... so I'm a bit behind.

Ok, Kari, I'll be honest. You seem like one of the smartest people I know of in this Movement, but I am going to have to call you out on this. (Sorry, Peter as I see that you've already basically attempted to nip this in the bud, but I feel this needs to be said, so I'm going to... Not to mention, based on Kari's response to 'you', the decision seems to still be theirs anyway, so it probably makes no difference what I say here.)

To the point, am I honestly the ONLY ONE in this thread that felt a nauseating sense of irony reading a response that was essentially *littered* with totally irrelevant "culturally handicapped" excuses coming from one of the organizational leaders in a movement that advocates transcending cultural boundaries???

Kari... you've GOT to be kidding me. I am saying this NOT to try and put you down, but on the contrary, I honestly couldn't believe it was even coming from you as I was reading it. I was wondering at what point you are going to do the right thing, and put your "cultural pride" aside, and get to the POINT... get to what's important and what everyone was discussing.. and I was thinking that there's NO WAY she's just going to ignore everyone's concerns and just end the email like this... and that's exactly what you did! You basically said, "I'm an Aussie, this is how we roll. Let's get back to work." I don't even know what to say. I'm genuinely disappointed, and that may not mean much to you coming from me, but I'm telling you nonetheless, because I felt it as I read it. (In fact, I was going to send you an email in private, but I felt it was best to let everyone know how much I truly value your opinion and was hoping you'd have something more meaningful to say on the matter. I was *actually* even hoping you'd be like "yeah it's well written, but I kind of see their points, David, maybe we should just take it down," or something like that... and help him to understand why, in your own eloquent way.

"Aussies are used to calling a spade a spade, and have no problem with it."

I'm sorry, is this the Australian Movement? Or the Zeitgeist Movement? The whole POINT of this thread is that *other people* have a problem with it (in this particular case)! If you *don't care*, then just come right out and *say that*, since you apparently have no problem "calling a spade and spade," and you could have saved us all the reading.

"We have received absolutely no criticisms from our Australian readership, only thankyou's."

Congratulations. Unfortunately, due to TVP's response we've received PLENTY of criticisms from both TVP members and TZM members alike. Maybe you never thought TVP would even see it, or respond. Maybe you didn't care if they did. Not sure, but they did, and THIS is the result. Now that we HAVE this result, I'm not sure what the Australian response (or lack thereof) has to do with anything at this point. We're beyond that now.

"When it comes to PR, I guess it also needs to be understood that Spirit of the Times is not a PR front for the Movement"

It doesn't matter. It serves as one anyway, proven by the initial title of TVP's note. I find it disappointing that you guys have one of the most visually appealing and commendable Magazines/Projects that I've witnessed in the Movement, likely to get this kind of attention (and deserving of it, IMO), but then when

your fellow members come to you with this concern, you conveniently "disassociate" yourself from any PR responsibility. That makes no sense at all. Whether those are your intentions for the Magazine or not, it comes with the package as long as you are representing TZM. I would think that would be more than obvious.

"We don't seem to have done any damage to our PR here as a result of David's article"

I'm not 100% sure what you're getting at here, so I'll address it in two parts:

-If by "here" you're simply saying you haven't done any damage to the Australian PR, then again, I have absolutely no idea what that has to do with anything, since we've established that it's damaged the PR elsewhere.

-If I misunderstood you, and you're saying it hasn't done any damage at all, then that's obviously untrue, as we saw in the FB comment thread (discounting damage we haven't even seen yet...)

"Now, if this doesn't fit other cultures that's understandable."

Great, so take down the article. (Which is where I thought you were going with that statement, but instead...)

"If our material doesn't fit other cultures they don't have to read our materials, they are not forced upon anyone."

I'm not even going to entertain that one, because you're more than intelligent enough to know that it's completely bogus. In order for someone to know that this particular article "doesn't fit their culture," (which is frankly some B-to-the-capital-S) they would had to have READ IT already, in which case the damage is already done. Just stop. Seriously.

"Our material suits an Australian audience better than material being generated by the US chapter via the global website, for example."

Yet, I find it interesting that, to my knowledge, the US Blog (which is actually global, but primarily US, due to staffing) doesn't publish anything that is \*offensive\* to any other culture and then defend it on the basis that it's "American." As part of a Global Movement, we generally try not to publish anything that is offensive to \*anyone\* regardless of their culture. (Unless it's the free market. We can sh\*t on them. ;)

"It is fair that Aussies get to share information suitable for Aussies with other Aussies."

Not under a TZM banner, it's not. If you want to publish "Aussie" things with other "Aussies" (that is otherwise objectionable to other "cultures"), then start a GENERAL "Aussie" group, not a TZM one.

"The magazine was only sent out to our Australian subscribers..."

Then TVP must be one of your subscribers. But from what you've enlightened us to so far about "Aussies," their reaction wasn't very "Australian."

"it is only now plastered all over TVP's Facebook page because they have chosen to make a big deal out of it."

Fair enough. I agree that the situation would not have escalated had they not done that. HOWEVER, they DID do it and so the problem now is that we (as a team of leaders, aiming to set a positive example) are trying to react accordingly, and all we're getting from you guys is excuses. You thought it was a good idea at the time. Fine. Maybe you STILL DO. Also fine. But that doesn't mean that you can't just take others (besides Australians, apparently) into consideration, and just take it down, out of RESPECT, for Peter if nothing else. (I was going to say what he already said, about how it comes back on him too. Since he already covered that, I'll leave it alone.)

"So, my suggestion? We get back to work - worry less about public image and more about actually getting on with our work."

This is a joke. "Worry less about **public image**" ..... in a group.... that is trying to gain... **publicity**? That makes ZERO sense. ZERO, and you know it. This is just your way of standing firmly behind your article and hoping (or perhaps knowing) that it will eventually blow over and that you didn't have to submit to the expressed concerns of anyone here. About getting back to work, we'd love to. Unfortunately stuff like this is getting in the way, and instead of doing the mature and "worldly" thing by taking it down, you guys want to drag it out. Ludicrous.

I'll end with this. (Some may regard this next statement as the cow who gives the milk and then kicks the bucket over, but I still have my respect for Kari and so I will make this very clear regardless, or try to...) Kari, you have my sincere apologies if I \*personally\* offended you in any way, or if you, at any point, felt I was just trying to be "bi\*chy" toward you. That was never my intention and hopefully anyone reading this can see that. (In fact, it was out of *respect for you* (and my assumption that you'd *approved* the article) that my initial comment on TVP's note was more "neutral" in nature, rather than just publicly denouncing the article as BS.) Thank you for all of your hard work in this Movement, and I only hope that something I said might get through and help you see this issue differently, even if you don't necessarily agree. Unfortunately I fear that your response (if any) may be no different than your initial one, and that's okay. There is nothing I can do about that. I am just "calling a spade a spade." Zeitgeist hugs.

-Brandy

On Wed, Dec 5, 2012 at 9:02 PM, Kari <[karin.e.mcgregor@gmail.com](mailto:karin.e.mcgregor@gmail.com)> wrote:

I wonder if there are cultural issues at play here? It needs to be understood that Spirit of the Times is an Australian magazine, run by an Australian team, and written for a predominantly Australian audience. Aussies are used to calling a spade a spade, and have no problem with it. We have received absolutely no criticisms from our Australian readership, only thank-yous. Aussie culture appreciates honesty and knowing where we stand, and people always know where they stand with others. It may be for this reason that we have had absolutely no problems since the TZM/TVP split - people knew they were free to go whichever way they wanted, and some chose both. Having said that, TVP has next to no following here in Aus, and they have no chapters at all. There is a lot of sympathy for TZM and a lot of people have heard of us, but people aren't honestly interested in TVP. We have groups and organizations working for innovative change here who have cultural and political legitimacy, such as BZE (Beyond

Zero Emissions) - they have a great following and are likely to see some real successes in their plans coming to fruition.

When it comes to PR, I guess it also needs to be understood that Spirit of the Times is not a PR front for the Movement; it's a magazine whose objective is to communicate a message to as wide an audience as possible. It is for this reason that the magazine is not branded as a TZM magazine or touted as a mouthpiece of the Movement - as we aim for as broad a reach as possible. The message is gaining traction, as is the magazine, with quite a following outside TZM. As far as TZM-specific PR is concerned we in the Aussie chapter work more on the messaging - the objectives of the RBEM - rather than promoting who/what TZM is, so there is no "them & us" issue between TZM & TVP, or with any other organization. We collaborate effectively with other groups and orgs and are well-respected in activist circles. We don't seem to have done any damage to our PR here as a result of David's article - to be honest, Aussies are likely to just dismiss people who have a problem with it as whingers who need to belt up and get on with life. We don't have any problem with trolling here, never have, and haven't started to experience any problems since publication of the article - honestly I think Aussies are too laid back to bother with trolling, and they'd only be greeted with blunt honesty regarding what they're doing, not with panic.

Now, if this doesn't fit other cultures that's understandable. We don't have a single culture in this world; we don't all react in the same way to the same information. If our material doesn't fit other cultures they don't have to read our materials, they are not forced upon anyone. Our material suits an Australian audience better than material being generated by the US chapter via the global website, for example. It is fair that Aussies get to share information suitable for Aussies with other Aussies. The magazine was only sent out to our Australian subscribers (and actually it didn't reach the 11,000 who are only subscribed via TZM global - seems the global mailing list function didn't work after all), and it is only now plastered all over TVP's Facebook page because they have chosen to make a big deal out of it.

So, my suggestion? We get back to work - worry less about public image and more about actually getting on with our work.

Cheers,

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**Kari McGregor**

**Editor, *Spirit of the Times* magazine**

[www.thespiritofcommunity.org](http://www.thespiritofcommunity.org)

On 6/12/2012 2:04 AM, Brandy Hume wrote:

Regarding whether or not peer review would have prevented this, it depends on who's reviewing it. (As David said, it (apparently) *was* reviewed.) I can tell you the first thing I thought when I saw TVP's response was, as Ben said, "why was this even written?" and secondly, "how did this get published?" I was wondering who reviewed/approved it and who all was behind it which is why I didn't speak out against it publicly; I thought if the entire TZMA Magazine team (whoever that may be), and perhaps even Peter, was behind it for reasons I might not yet have understood, then it was

not my place to denounce it.

However, seeing as how everyone including myself seems to be caught off guard by it, I will mention that my following thought was that there is no way that article would have gotten past our Editors, because regardless of its validity, whatever's written in it is not the message or tone we want to communicate to our audience. We have had several articles submitted that were very well-written and informative (and we could tell it took the author a lot of time and effort) but had to be rejected because it did not make sense coming from "the voice of the movement." We asked those writers to publish it elsewhere.

Which brings me to David's response. You talk about Politics and Science and completely left out PR and how this makes us look to the public eye. You keep defending your points WITHIN the article itself, but what you are missing here is one major point: **You start the article out talking about how you supported TVP in their tour, etc. How firmly you stood behind them (as many of us did). Then later you mention that Fresco's theories have never been tested and aren't proven... (???)** Regardless of whether that is true, if that is the case then why were you behind them to begin with? **I can guarantee you that 3rd-party readers and especially nay-sayers will be asking the same question now.** "If TZM was so blind as to support a fallacious idea to begin with, after we argued that it's not supported, then why the hell should we bother to listen to them now?" (I'm looking forward to responding to those...) You mean to tell me this didn't occur to you at all before writing/publishing it? You talk about ethics but did you stop to think how you might make the rest of the ZM members feel, especially those who still have a good relationship with other TVP members? Did you consider the awkward position you would put us in by publicly denouncing TVP when some of us still have materials out there claiming that certain science behind it is valid?

At this point I understand that you're defending your arguments and statements in the article, and pointing out that Roxanne did not refute them, but that is beside the point. I feel that this is something that could have, and should have, been published on a personal blog if desired (though I'd still advise against that given your title, but at least the rest of the Movement isn't held accountable).

I think it's clear that most here don't agree with the decision to publish that article, especially using an Official TZM medium, and I ultimately find it irrational of you to hopelessly defend it on the basis of "science" as if there are no other factors to consider.

(I'd also just like to mention that I have nothing against you personally, David, and I honestly did not even feel this strongly on the subject and was going to keep quiet until you started responding to others with these irrelevant objections, as if you're not listening to what anyone has to say. As if you don't care what your fellow members think or feel and are just defending your own agenda, taking it upon yourself to make an executive decision "in the name of science" because the rest of us supposedly don't know any better, and as if Peter has somehow been "persuaded" to respond this way because he can't think for himself. It was after picking up on that attitude from you that I felt the need to come forward.)

-- Sent from my mobile device

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On Dec 5, 2012 8:37 AM, Ben McLeish <[bjm2007@gmail.com](mailto:bjm2007@gmail.com)> wrote:

Some peer review process would have done nothing. It's why it felt it had to be written that's the problem, if it is just out and out aggressive. But I haven't read it so I have no idea.

Sent from my iPhone

On 5 Dec 2012, at 02:34 PM, David Z <[david.z@zeitgeistaustralia.org](mailto:david.z@zeitgeistaustralia.org)> wrote:

Andres - please don't call for peer review when none of the work you are doing are going through such process.

The article in question was peer reviewed - I'm sure you know what peer review means - dont you ?

On 5/12/2012 11:06 PM, Andrés Delgado wrote:

I warned Miguel about this. There was a huge discussion about this in zm chapters google group. I was kind of surprised you sent it to the entire Aus chapter using our newsletter tool.

Please ask yourselves why did this happen? Why was no one peer-reviewed the content before sending it?

If you need more time please let others fulfill your responsibilities. PJ I do understand why we don't focus on structure but THIS is why we need at least a basic structure where collaboration and double checking can happen.

Saludos,

Andrés Delgado

El 05/12/2012, a las 0:47, "Peter GMP" <[gmpfilms@gmail.com](mailto:gmpfilms@gmail.com)> escribió:

<http://www.facebook.com/TheVenusProjectGlobal?ref=stream>

Very simply: bad move.

Please just pull that article. We can vent all we want here but public attacks against TVP has always been a NO-NO. It hurts us too and things are bad enough in general with them. This article doesn't help anything. Vent in private!



Again, please pull in whatever way you can.

Peter

On Tue, Dec 4, 2012 at 9:24 PM, Kari <[karin.e.mcgregor@gmail.com](mailto:karin.e.mcgregor@gmail.com)> wrote:

To all GCA representatives: The Asia-Pacific regional coordinators have agreed, by consensus, that they would like for Mahima Bedi of the Indian chapter to take over my responsibilities with representation in the region.

Mahima has been selected as she has been a national coordinator for well over a year, has successfully established and assisted with the development of multiple regional/city sub-chapters, has contributed to highly successful development of the Indian chapter, has a clear track record with no complaints received, and has been a very helpful and supportive volunteer in the Asia-Pacific region, taking her responsibilities and support of others very seriously.

With the consent of the rest of the GCA I will begin to orient Mahima to the responsibilities she will need to fulfill, introduce her to the GCA team, and ensure she is up to date with all necessary information. I will continue to support Mahima in her responsibilities for as long as I am needed.

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**Kari McGregor**

**Editor, *Spirit of the Times* magazine**

[www.thespiritofcommunity.org](http://www.thespiritofcommunity.org)

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(Ask Darr to be invited to Trello Boards)

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~Brandy~

You can find me on:

[FACEBOOK](#) | [TWITTER](#) | [YOUTUBE](#)  
[BLOGGER](#) | [MYSPACE](#) | [VIMEO](#)



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